

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC(GROVE, THOMAS)

SUBJECT: W/W THOMAS GROVE

1. REV. GROVE HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER LETTER FROM KATHY FERREIRA GIVING INFORMATION ON ASSOCIATES OF TOM GROVE BEFORE HE LEFT ON TREK. REV. GROVE HAS LONG EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT ATTACK WAS MADE ON TOM SHORTLY AFTER HE LEFT ON TREK POSSIBLY BY WESTERNERS INTENT ON ROBBERY. ACCORDING TO MRS. FERREIRA THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY THREE ACQUAINTANCES, INCLUDING A JEROME (LAST NAME UNKNOWN) WHO WERE AWARE OF TOM'S INTENDED TREK, WHO WERE ALSO STAYING AT KATHMANDU GUEST HOUSE, AND WHO LEFT ALSO ON TREK FOR EVEREST THE SAME DAY AS TOM BUT DID NOT ACCOMPANY HIM. MRS. FERREIRA NOW REMEMBERS THE DEPARTURE DATE AS 12/12/75 RATHER THAN 12/11 AS ORIGINALLY BELIEVED.

2. USING CHECK-OUT RECORDS OF KATHMANDU GUEST HOUSE (IF ANY) AND RECORDS OF TREKKING PERMIT OFFICE, LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAY BE ABLE TO DETERMINE NAMES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. WHAT IS EMBASSY'S FEELING ON RAISING THIS POSSIBILITY WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, MAKING STRONG REPRESENTATION FOR PURSUIT OF ANY INFORMATION WHICH MAY IMPLICATE THEM OR LINK THEM WITH SUNWAR?

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3. FYI: THE GROVE FAMILY, WHILE EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY EFFORTS, BELIEVES LOCAL POLICE HAVE BEEN NEGLIGENT IN PURSUING LEADS; I.E. INSUFFICIENT QUESTIONING OF SUNWAR AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES ON TRAVELERS CHECKS. EMBASSY IS TO BE COMMENDED ON EXCELLENCE OF EFFORTS IN THIS CASE. HOWEVER, AS EMBASSY AWARE, MISSING PERSON CASES OF THIS NATURE CAN INVOLVE ESCALATING CRITICISM FROM VARIOUS HIGH LEVEL SOURCES, AND CONTINUED PRESSURE ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TOWARD SOLUTION MAY BE NECESSARY.

4. COPY OF MRS. FERREIRA'S LETTER BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY. SHE MENTIONS TWO FRIENDS OF TOM IN KATHMANDU AT SAME TIME BUT FEELS THEY WOULD HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION TO CONTRIBUTE MRS. FERREIRA'S HANDWRITING DIFFICULT TO READ AND ERRORS POSSIBLE. FRIENDS CITED IN LETTER ARE: PAUL WHELAN (ENGLISH); 6 GOFFAMIL GARGRAVE; SKIPTON; N YORKS BD 233 NG; ENGLAND. JAY KNOWLES (ENGLISH); 231 EDWIN ROAD; RAINHAM, GILLINGHAM; KENT; ENGLAND. KISSINGER

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